
A GUIDE TO IGNITION INTERLOCK DEVICES

IGNITION INTERLOCK: What you should know

THE LAW:

After October 1, 1999, the law requires a person whose MCL 257.303 alcohol-related denial/revocation is being modified to restrictions must drive the first year of the restrictions with an ignition interlock device installed in the vehicle they are driving. You cannot drive until after the interlock device has been installed on the vehicle you intend to drive and proof of such installation has been submitted to a local branch office of the Secretary of State.

HOW IT WORKS:

An ignition interlock system, referred to as Breath Alcohol Ignition Interlock Device (BAIID) is a breath alcohol analyzer with computer logic and internal memory that interconnects with the ignition and other control systems of a motor vehicle. The purpose of the BAIID is to measure the bodily alcohol concentration (BAC) of an intended driver and to prevent the motor vehicle from being started if the BAC exceeds the .025. The offender can only drive in a vehicle with an ignition interlock device installed. The device will ask for random retests while driving. If you acquire three startup test violations within a monitoring period, or one rolling retest failure, or the device detects tampering, the device will require the instrument to be brought in immediately or will lock out the driver from further operation. These test violations will result in further extensions of the one year period or the denied/revocation status to be reinstated.

****If you have ANY questions concerning the ignition interlock device installed in your vehicle, ask your installer. Make sure you understand how this device operates before you leave the installer's premises as you will be responsible for the consequences of the device's operation.**

MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF STATE
DRIVERS LICENSE APPEAL DIVISION

(517) 373-1682

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COST:

The state does not regulate the cost of ignition interlock devices. However, the Legislature did limit the amount that can be charged to people on low-incomes to a maximum of \$1 per day. In order to qualify for this reduced fee your income must fall below 150% of the current Poverty Guidelines of the U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services. To determine if you may qualify, see your vendor for details. The state law does require copies of the previous years filed State Income Tax forms for verification.

FINAL REPORT:

You must drive with an Ignition Interlock installed on your vehicle and a **valid drivers** license for at least 1 full year. You may then petition the Drivers License Appeal Division for a hearing. At that hearing you must present your final report(s) issued by your provider(s) to establish the mandatory minimum length of installation required by law.

TROUBLESHOOTING:

If you experience a question or problem that is not covered in your written materials from the vendor, you should first call your vendor's toll free phone number, unless directed differently by the vendor. If the vendor is unable to help you, then you may contact DLAD. You have the option to change vendors if you choose, but you must have a new device installed within 7 days of removal of the previous one, you are subject to all fees as outlined in your contract with the vendors, you will also need a final report from each vendor to submit at your next DLAD hearing, and you must send your new installation certificate to DLAD. It is to your benefit to keep a notebook and log any problems you encounter, along with all phone calls you make with as much detail information as possible. You should also keep copies of all documents for your own files. If you have a complaint against a vendor, please submit it to DLAD in writing at: Department of State, Driver License Appeal Division, P.O. Box 30196, Lansing, MI 48909-7696.

LOCATION OF SERVICE CENTERS:

Providers who wish to install interlock devices must have a statewide network of service locations which are located within 50 miles (one way) of each driver. In cases where a driver lives more than 50 miles from a service center, the interlock company may use a mobile unit to travel to a location within 50 miles of a driver.

HOW DO I GET AN IGNITION INTERLOCK DEVICE INSTALLED?

You must use a Vendor and device that has been certified by the State of Michigan. Your DLAD order/authorization will include the most current list of certified vendors, or you may find the information on our web site:

www.Michigan.gov/sos

or you may call (517) 373-1682.

******The State of Michigan and/or their employees do not endorse or recommend vendors. Each vendor is a commercially operated company that has been approved by the State of Michigan according to MCL 257.625(k) and (l). Rates and policies may vary.***

VIOLATIONS OF IGNITION INTERLOCK:

Violations of the interlock program are divided into "major" and "minor" violations.

Minor violations include:

- 1) Two months or more after the BAIID is installed, 3 start-up test failures (BAIID prevented vehicle from starting) occur within a monitoring period.
- 2) The petitioner fails to report to the BAIID installer for monitoring within 7 days after his/her scheduled monitoring date.

Major violations include:

- 1) A rolling retest violation (the random retest detects your BAC at 0.04 or more while driving) with no subsequent sample less than 0.04 within 5 minutes.
- 2) A §625g permit is issued.
- 3) Receives a §6251 conviction (crimes for tampering with the device).
- 4) Reported of tampering or circumventing or attempts to tamper or circumvent without a conviction.
- 5) Three minor violations within a monitoring period.
- 6) BAIID is removed and not installed in another vehicle within 7 days.

CONSEQUENCES OF A VIOLATION:

Minor violations will result in a three month BAIID extension, making persons ineligible for a hearing at the end of the original one-year requirement. Major violations will result in an immediate reinstatement of the revocation/denial subject to an administrative hearing.

